

Gauge One 3D Printing Circle

BR Brake Van World Tour 16 Weekend in Auckland

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A weekend trip to Auckland which is in the North Island, was a good excuse to take the Brake along for some sightseeing.

Here is the view from top of Mount Victoria ,above Devonport, with the City of Auckland in the distance across the Waitemata Harbour.



Mount Victoria, or Takarunga as the Maori call it, is the highest volcanic cone on Auckland's North Shore (66m), located in Devonport. As a significant tūpuna maunga (ancestral mountain), it features historic Māori pā terraces, 19th-century gun emplacements and panoramic 360-degree views of the Waitematā Harbour, Auckland CBD, and Rangitoto Island.

Takarunga, meaning 'hill standing above,' was given due to it's height above the now-levelled Takararo, which once stood nearby. Today, Takararo is the flat Cambria Reserve, having been entirely reshaped by quarrying. Takarunga was a key site for local Māori and you can still spot the terracing and kūmara storage pits from the days when it was a thriving pā or fort.

Once known as Flagstaff Hill, the mount played a critical role in Auckland's early signal station and military history. You can still explore the remains of a 19th-century gun fort, a relic from the days when the hill helped defend the city.

Here is the view looking towards Rangitoto Island that is out in the Hauraki Gulf.



Rangitoto Island is Auckland's youngest (approx. 600 years old) and most iconic volcano, located in the Hauraki Gulf. It is a popular, pest-free day-trip destination, featuring a 260-metre high summit with 360-degree views, rugged lava fields and the world's largest pōhutukawa forest.



This plaque shows a map of all that can be seen from the top of Mount Victoria. To ensure the relief's precision, the designers (Auckland Bronze Plaque Company) used high-resolution drone photogrammetry and LiDAR data to create a high-fidelity model of the Auckland terrain. The bronze map was established as part of the Post-2010 summit accessibility and interpretive improvements.

The Auckland Bronze Plaque Company is a third-generation family business that has produced historic and commemorative bronze works in the City since 1945.



Here the Brake is on top of the WWII underground bunkers that are part of the signal station.

Here we are on the ferry between Auckland CBD and Devonport. The Port of Auckland is on the left with the CBD in the centre.



Here we are in the ferry harbour area in downtown Auckland, the Hilton Auckland is on the right looking like a cruise liner and on the left is The Cloud



The Cloud is a landmark multi-purpose venue on Auckland's Queens Wharf, originally built for the 2011 Rugby World Cup. It is a long, modern white structure featuring translucent walls, designed to resemble a cloud, and is used for exhibitions, events, and dining with waterfront views.

Next to The Cloud, nestled in the harbour area near the Hilton hotel is a small steam powered boat.



SS Puke is a steamship used for local transport. Initially named Wai Awa, it is known as New Zealand's oldest working steamboat. It is now part of the working fleet in the New Zealand Maritime Museum and is berthed in Auckland. The name Puke is shortened from the te reo Māori word kaipuke, meaning ship.



The main reason for the trip to Auckland was to see the touring Royal Edinburgh Tattoo; however management decided that Brake could not attend due to security risks, but here is a picture from the evening:



In it's 75th anniversary year, the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo had military bands performing from around the world including Britain, New Zealand, Norway, Japan, Switzerland, United States, Tonga and Australia.